RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

# California GARDEN

10c

SPRING
FLOWER SHOW

**SATURDAY and SUNDAY**

**April 22nd and 23rd**

MAIN PLAZA
BALBOA PARK

APRIL
1941


AFTER THE RAINS
James W. Cowie

KNOW THE WILDFLOWERS
Mayme Carroll

CALIFORNIA JAY
Frank F. Gander

PROBLEMS OF THE SOIL
Rob't R. McLean

ROSE DISEASES
Silas B. Osborn

GLEANINGS
Ida Louise Bryant

# RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP

You are cordially invited to call and see our shop at

2140 4th Avenue

San Diego

Telephone number remains the same—F. 7101

## Now in Bloom . . .

FIELD GROWN PANSIES AND VIOLAS

**35c a doz.**

ORDER YOUR EASTER PLANTS EARLY

LILIES, CINERARIAS, HYDRANGIAS

Corsages - Cut Flowers
Funeral Pieces

Entrance, Crane Place on Hawk St. South of Sutter

VISITORS WELCOME

ROSE COURT FLORAL CO.

MISSION HILLS

J-3208

3705 Crane Street San Diego

# ROSES

## PLANTS IN POTS ARE SUPERIOR

SEE THEM HERE IN ONE OF SAN DIEGO'S OLDEST NURSERIES

Ornamental Shrubs, Vines, Trees, Herbaceous Plants

Mission Valley Nursery

MRS. E. BENARD, Prop.

MISSION ROAD

New Paved Highway Half Mile Past Presidio Park

Convenient Parking

Rt. 2, Box 166 Ph. W. 1373

# Moffitt Irrigation Co.

ESTABLISHED 10 YEARS

## Sprinkling Systems

*Lawns, Gardens, Orchards*

FREE ESTIMATES

Pipe Lines Laid

Repairs A Specialty

4435 Ohio St. Randolph 8388

## California Garden

is one of the oldest garden magazines published and is limited specifically in material to Subtropical Regions. Why not interest your garden-minded friends in it, especially those out of the state in southern regions.

MRS. DE FORREST WARD

P. O. Box 323, San Diego, Calif.

# CALIFORNIA GARDEN

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
Mrs. Mary A. Greer, President
Woodcrest 2267
Mr. R. R. McLean, Vice-President
Mr. Frederick G. Jackson, Treasurer
Bayview 5044
Miss Alice Halliday
Mrs. Robert Morrison
Mr. Arthur Shoven
W. Allen Perry

Mrs. DeForrest Ward, Secretary
Woodcrest 5022

Member
American Rose Society
American Gladioli Society
American Iris Society
California Fuchsia Society

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
**The San Diego Floral Association**
ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
**P. O. Box 323, San Diego, Calif.**

**Roland S. Hoyt, Editor**
**John D. Wimmer, Assoc. Editor**

**April, 1941**
Vol. 31 No. 20

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association

Rates on Request

Advertising Copy should be in by the 25th of preceding month.

Subscription to Magazine, $1.00 per year; Membership $1.50 per year; Magazine and Membership combined, $2.00 per year.

Meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Floral Building, Balboa Park, 7:30 P. M.

Toft Printing Co., 1129 2nd St., San Diego


# Now, After the Rains . . .

By JAMES W. COWIE

The amount of work you give your garden now will give dividends of pleasure and satisfaction later in the season. March is normally the month in which gardeners should be busy as most of the summer flowering plants should be planted then.

This is also the month in which seedlings of all kinds should receive careful consideration, as the success of the seedling is the future of the flowering plant. Since the season and the ground is rain-sodden, some adjustment in point of time will be necessary. The annuals (if grown from seed) are usually ready for transplanting the middle of March, plants such as Zinnias, Cosmos, Asters, Petunias, etc. Do not plant them too early, however, and surely not this year, as they will grow much better when the warmer weather comes,—then you will have a mass of bloom when you want them and that should be August or thereabouts.

Tuberous begonia bulbs should be sprouting now if you started them in a warm place in February. They grow well in a shady place and require an acid soil made up of leaf mold and peat moss. Fertilize them several times throughout the season, and stake them as they get tall.

If you haven't tried dahlias from cuttings, you should do it now. This is essential to any real success when your bulbs are diseased or have nematodes, or if for any other reason they are losing vitality from outside causes. Plant the tubers in a large pot or box and put in a warm place. Take the cutting with a part of the heel when about four inches high and put in sand. When you have enough from your bulbs, do away with the soil and bulbs in the garbage can and have it taken away. The compost pile, if you fortunately and wisely carry one, is no place for this material. I find that taking cuttings like this is much better than polluting your garden with disease organisms and you will still have your favorite dahlia, clean, new and vibrant with new service. Dahlias should be planted from April to the first of June. If you should try some from seed, sow them in February or March and they will bloom in about four months.

Fertilize fuchsias now and it is very important to watch closely for thrip. Spray overhead with water every day and that will help very materially to keep the thrip away, at the same time the plants will always have a fresh, bright appearance. Spray with a good oil spray throughout the summer.

At the same time keep spraying your roses for aphis as they attack the young growth. Keep a look out for cut worms, they do damage to the young plants. Poison bran mash has been very effective in controlling them. Lawn should be fertilized at this time and watered regularly to get results. The life and success of the entire gardening year depends largely on the thought and effort that is being expended now.

JAMES M. COWIE,
Del Mar, Calif.

## THE GOOD RAIN

The past season of abnormally heavy rainfall will show its greatest benefits these next few months, although for the following several growing seasons gardeners who are at all observing and in close liaison with the earth will note a new vitality, a freshened urge in most plants to perform in a more untrammeled exuberance. This may be, as generally thought, due to certain additions that come of rainfall—oxygen, or possibly ozone picked up in passing through the air.

In regions where continuous irrigation goes on year after year, there is built up an accumulation of salts which may or may not be directly harmful to plants. A condition results that may be compared to a toxic animal body which will inhibit the growth of many plants. This may reach the point where it is noticeable in growing certain species, and certain permeable soils with sure drainage will probably not be affected, or at least only temporarily.

Thorough drainage is of course the controlling condition whereby

this overburden of harmful materials is kept on the move and that is where an occasional very wet winter comes in. The addition of soil amendments such as sulphur or gypsum is helpful, but often is not completely effective, or leaves a product or the result of some chemical change, such as "absorbed sodium" that is still anything but beneficial. This may show up in either the physical condition of the soil or in the chemical processes that relate to nutrition. Clean sweet soil is a boon to the gardener and he should make every intelligent effort possible to keep it so.

—R. S. H.

# Rose Diseases

(Concluded this issue)

By Silas B. Osborn

**Blossom Blast (Thrips Franklinella Spp.):**

This trouble is often associated with or confused with the bull head trouble, but properly belongs under insects rather than diseases. Since it is sometimes very difficult to differentiate bull head trouble from thrips injury, the distinguishing character of the injury is described here. Thrips are tiny insects which, in case of blossom blast, feed on the petals of the bloom within the expanding buds. Thrips are often present in bull head blooms, but buds blasted from thrips usually have their normal number of petals, although the petals may be distorted and show definite brown areas where they have been feeding. The blasted flowers when fully open will show normal centers. The pistils and stamens develop normally in contrast to the malformation and darkening of the centers of bull head flowers. The edges of the petal, however, are necrotic, darkened or blasted. Roses with many petals are, as a rule, the most seriously affected since they open more slowly, giving the thrips a longer feeding period, causing more injury. The injury is the most serious in cool weather, for

(Continued on Page 8)

# They Will Know the Wildflowers

By MAYME L. CARROLL

How many San Diego County wildflowers can you name?

"To be able to call the plants by name makes them a hundredfold more sweet and intimate. Naming things is one of the oldest and simplest of human pastimes."—Henry Van Dyke.

It gives me great pleasure to tell the readers of this magazine about the annual Grant School Wildflower Show and how the children learn the names of our native flowers. For eight years we have planned this activity for the children and their parents. Their interest has encouraged us to continue.

We began studying many years ago under the direction of Carroll DeWilton Scott, then Supervisor of Nature Study in the City Schools. A group of children in my class formed a Wildflower Hobby Club and took walks to identify the flowers. They blueprinted some of them and then painted the prints with watercolors. This collection of twenty-five was enlarged the next year by another group of pupils. Then we discovered that it was a real challenge each year to find new flowers for blueprinting. Our collection reached over two hundred prints. It served its purpose in keeping our interest alive and gave us a record of the flowers found.

It was then realized that many of the children did not have the opportunity to go into the country to see the flowers growing, and that those who did were not able to recognize them readily. While driving in the country one day in early spring, a thought came . . . why not bring the flowers to the children?

Our first Wildflower Show was exciting and not too attractive. It took many vases to hold so many different kinds of flowers. Glass bottles and jars had to come into use, and they proved to be a problem. The discolored water worried us and cleaning the jars was an endless task. Our display tables were all the same level and did not show off the flowers. The names had to be correct and often we were unable to find them. That was a challenge and I met it by using books, therefore building up a small library of my own.

For the first few years of the show I called upon Mr. Frank Gander to help us identify and name the flowers that we couldn't find in the reference material. As busy as he was he always found time to assist us. I frequently visited his displays in the Natural History Museum until the flowers and names were familiar.

As the years went by we improved the appearance of the show and profited by our experiences. Painted jars and bottles of all sizes and shapes became vases. Each year we saved them and Mrs. Mary Edwards had her pupils paint them in soft colors to harmonize with the flowers. Modernistic stands were made by the janitor in the building. If they could talk they would tell many interesting stories of new flowers, and new friends in the spring classes of Grant school.

It would be impossible to make our show any larger, because we couldn't find the time and energy to keep it going. It would be full time work for someone. As it is, I collect most of the flowers, and the children in my Sixth grade help to arrange them and take care of them. Each year new parents show an interest and often bring specimens from their country places. Sunday trips are made more interesting in this way. The children are instructed in the rules of collecting according to the permit that is obtained each year through the office of Mr. McLean, County Agricultural Inspector. They are told not to bring in too many flowers, and how to care for them immediately after picking.

We study the flowers according to location, in groups ranging from the seashore, canyons and mesa level, higher levels or mountains, to the beautiful desert flowers. Our desert corner is always attractively arranged and has to last for the duration of the show, unless someone finds time to make a second trip to collect fresh material. Many of the mountain flowers bloom too late, but we manage to find enough to represent that area. The mesa flowers are always plentiful and can be found easily. Each year there is a new thrill in discovering new flowers. On burned areas we find thousands of blossoms that have previously been difficult to find.

Beginning this year I plan to have colored photographs taken for still films of flowers in each of the groups mentioned and add to the collection each year. They will be invaluable as study aids and may eventually replace such a large Flower Show.

The results of our project have encouraged us to go on. It could not be done without the cooperation of the children, parents, teachers, and Mr. Van Valin, our principal, who has been keenly interested in the activity from its beginning. The children learn to conserve and care for the plants, to observe and appreciate their beauty, to learn about San Diego County, to enjoy their country trips more, to gain color appreciation, and to arrange flowers artistically.

We average one hundred fifty kinds of flowers each Spring in the exhibit representing all parts of the County. At the end of the study period of two or three weeks the names of the flowers are taken away and the flowers rearranged completely. All of the pupils who have studied in the Flower Room are admitted in groups to take a test on the names of the flowers. Those who work with the flowers and help to keep the Show going naturally know the most flowers. Many of them name over one hundred and several can name nearly all in the test of one hundred twenty. Our aim is to have the lower g r a d e

(Continued on Page 8)

# The Bird Parade . . . . .

By FRANK FORREST GANDER
Natural History Museum

## CALIFORNIA JAY

Each day, dawn comes creeping over my hillside just a little earlier than the day before. Stars pale, and then the tops of tall Eucalyptus trees stand out black against the sky. As soon as the light has strengthened so that night is definitely past, I begin to hear bird voices in my yard. Prosaic Brown Towhees utter prosaic chirps. A Mockingbird sings ecstatically, and then, harsh and strident, comes the call of the California Jay. Knowing what a busy rogue he is, I peep from my window to see what he is about.

There, on the top of my largest boulder, I spy him, his blue raiment shining resplendent in the morning light. Intent on the activities of some little birds on the ground, he does not notice me, and I have opportunity to observe him closely. Larger than a Mockingbird, with a long tail and big stout beak, he impresses me with his strength and forcefulness. The top of his head, his wings, and his tail are brightest blue; his back is gray, and as he hops about on the boulder, turning a little, I see that he has a white line over his eye and that his under parts are light, almost white, with a blue border around the throat. Then, he launches from his perch and drops down among the birds on the ground. How these lesser feathered ones scatter as the jay comes among them!

With derisive calls, the blue bragart hops over to and pecks at the morsel on which the other birds had been feeding. I can not see what this is, but the jay finds it to his liking, picks it up and flies off toward his home in a neighboring live oak grove. As he rises out of the shadow of the hill and the morning sunlight falls full on his back and wings, I forget that he is a bully, a thief, and a nest robber, and know only that he wears the most glorious, living blue that was ever bestowed upon a bird.

Somewhere among the branches of the live oaks is his nest, and as parents, California Jays are exemplary. Late in February I saw one of this pair carrying nesting materials, but it is usually near the end of March or in April before the eggs are laid. A nest which I found one spring was in a low dense scruboak thicket and was lined with fresh green grass. Other nests may be high in the tops of oaks or willow but always well hidden. Sometimes they are concealed in clumps of mistletoe.

The young are fed on insects, fruit, and the eggs and young of other birds, but the adults eat almost anything. They are fond of nuts, grain, and other seeds, especially acorns and will steal these last from the storehouse of the California Woodpecker when that militant fellow is not on guard. But our jays store acorns, too, and I often find these when working in my garden, tucked under leaves or even pushed down into the soil. I doubt if the birds ever retrieve very many of their store for I find little oak trees springing up in surprising places. One California Jay that I watched was storing acorns from two kinds of oaks in a divided box on a wagon in a barnyard. The nuts were separated meticulously—the long, slender ones of the Coast Live Oak in one compartment, the short, round ones of the Mesa Blue Oak in another. Not an acorn was out of place.

With all of his faults, I find the California Jay an interesting neighbor, cunning and mischievous. He belongs to a family famous for these two traits. Ravens, Crows, Rooks, Magpies, and their ilk are his kin and have long been noted for their smartness and trickery.

# 34th Annual Spring Flower Show

## Sat. and Sun., April 22nd and 23rd

**OPEN SAT., 1 P. M., BALBOA PARK — MAIN PLAZA**

# SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

### SECTION A—AMATEURS

### ROSES

* 1. Collection of Roses, 15 varieties, two blooms each. (Association cup).
* 2. Collection of Roses, 10 varieties, two blooms each.
* 3. Collection of Roses, 6 varieties, two blooms each.
NOTE: No person may exhibit in more than one of Class 1, 2, 3.
4. Six White Roses, one variety.
5. Six Red Roses, one variety.
6. Six Yellow Roses, one variety.
7. Six Yellow Shaded Roses, one gariety.
8. Six Pink Roses, one variety.
9. Six Pink Shaded Roses, one variety.
10. Six Flame Colored Roses, one variety.
11. Six Multicolored Roses.
12. Three White Roses, one variety.
13. Three Red Roses, one variety.
14. Three Yellow Roses, one variety.
15. Three Yellow Shaded Roses, one variety.
16. Three Pink Roses, one variety.
17. Three Pink Shaded Roses, one variety.
18. Three Flame Colored Roses, one variety.
19. Three Multicolored Roses.
20. One Rose, any color.
21. Display of Single Roses.
22. Display of Polyantha or Baby Roses.
* 23. Display of mixed varieties of Roses.
24. Display of Climbing Roses.
* 25. Arranged vase or bowl of Roses. One variety.
* 26. Arranged Basket of Roses. One variety.
* 27. Arranged vase or bowl of Roses. More than one variety.
* 28. Arranged Basket of Roses, more than one variety.
* **BEST ROSE IN SHOW**

### SECTION B—AMATEURS

### IRIS

29. Arrangement of Bearded Iris.
30. Arrangement of Bulbous Iris. (Dutch, Spanish or English.)
31. Arranged bowl of Japanese Iris.
32. Arrangement of Beardless Iris.
* **Sweepstake Trophy 29-32 inclusive.**

### COLLECTIONS

33. Collection of five distinct named varieties of Bearded Iris.
34. Collection of ten distinct named varieties of Bearded Iris.
35. Collection of five distinct varieties of Beardless Iris.
36. Collection of five varieties of Bulbous Iris.
* **Sweepstake Trophy 33-36 inclusive.**

### SECTION C— AMATEURS

### SWEET PEAS

* 37. Collection of Sweet Peas, 10 stems each vase.
38. Vase Sweet Peas, white.
39. Vase Sweet Peas, cream and yellow shades.
40. Vase Sweet Peas, red and red shades.
41. Vase Sweet Peas, pink and pink shades.
42. Vase Sweet Peas, lavender and blue shades.
43. Vase Sweet Peas, purple and maroon shades.
44. Vase Sweet Peas, salmon and orange shades.
45. Vase Sweet Peas, bi-color. **Classes 37-45 inclusive should carry ten to fifteen stems each vase.**
46. Arranged bowl of Sweet Peas.
47. Arranged basket Sweet Peas.
* **SWEET PEA SWEEPSTAKES, San Diego Floral Association Bronze Medal.**
48. Display of Sweet Peas consisting of not less than five named varieties, artistic arrangement and general effect to be considered in making award. Greenery permitted. Open to all.

### SECTION D

**Amateurs**

### FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

49. Arrangement of Flowers in vase or bowl.
50. All White arrangement (White container.)
51. Arrangement in Pink and Gray Green.
52. Arrangement in Shades of Yellow.
53. Arrangement in Shades of Violet.
54. Arrangement of Green Material in White Container.
55. Arrangement in Metal Container.
56. Arrangement of Bulbous Flowers in Low Container.
57. Arrangement of Succulents.
58. Arrangement of Fruit Blossoms.
59. Arrangement of Geraniums.
60. Spring Bouquet, an assortment of Spring Flowers.
61. French Bouquet, container required.
* Sweepstakes in Classes 49-61 inclusive. **First and Second Prizes.**

### SECTION E

**Amateurs**

### MISCELLANEOUS

* 62. Decorated Banquet Table.
* 63. Decorated Lunch Table.

* 64. Decorated Tea Table.
65. Individual Specimen of Decorative Plant.
66. Cut Specimen Flowering Vine.
67. Cut Specimen Flowering Shrub or Tree.
68. Bulb Flowers, six or more varieties.
69. Display of Gladioli, six stems.
70. Display of Geranium Blooms, six or more.
71. Display of Potted Geraniums.
72. Display of Pansies.
73. Display of Violas.
74. Display of Delphinium.
75. Display of Petunias.
76. Display of Stocks, eight or more stems.
77. Display of Snapdragons, eight or more stems.
78. Display of Calendulas, twelve or more stems.
79. Display of Larkspur, twelve or more stems.
80. Display of Fuchsias, not less than twelve inch stems.
81. Display of Gerberas, one color or mixed, not less than eighteen blooms.
82. Display of Nasturtiums, not less than eighteen blooms.
83. Display of Marguerites, not less than eighteen blooms.
84. Display of Scabiosa, twelve blooms, one color or mixed.
85. Display of Carnations, twelve blooms, one color or mixed.
86. Display of Schizantrus.
87. Display of Fruit Blossoms.
88. Flowers not otherwise classified.

* **Sweepstake Classes 65-88 inclusive.**
**First and Second Prizes.**

## SECTION F

**Open to All Competition**

* 89. Display from Civic or National Organization.
* 90. Collection of Begonias, Ferns, and other Lath-house Plants.
* 91. Display of Native Shrubs and Flowers.
* 92. Display of Potted Plants.
93. Rose Seedling.
94. Display of Epiphyllums in bloom. (Phylo Cactus).
* 95. Display of Cacti.
* 96. Display of Succulents.
97. Dish or Tray Garden.

## SECTION G

## PROFESSIONALS

98. Display of Sweet Peas.
99. Display of Cut Roses.
*100. Displayed Collection of Rose Bushes in Bloom.
* **San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.**
*101. Display of Cut Flowers other than Roses or Sweet Peas.
*102. Displayed Collection of Shrubs and Plants.
103. Display of Bulb Flowers.
104. Garden Pottery.

## SECTION H

## FLORIST ENTRIES

*105. Arranged basket, bowl or vase of Cut Flowers.
106. Dining or Banquet Table.
* **OUTSTANDING DISPLAY IN SHOW, San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.**

* Classes in which Trophies are offered. Ribbons for first and second in all classes.

## FLOWER SHOW CHAIRMEN

Roses — Mrs. James C. Byers, J-7484; Mrs. William Cowling, J-0255.

Sweet Peas—Mrs. J. Terrell Scott, J-3946; Mrs. Ira Robbins, F-2631; Mrs. H. Irving Vernier, J-8090.

Iris—Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Carse, B. 3892; Mrs. Wendall Brant, J-8679.

Flower Arrangements — Pieter Smoor, M-4875; Miss Schwieder, J-3520; Mrs. John Nuttall, J-2644; Mrs. Willis Goldsmith, J-8094.

Annuals and Perennials—Mrs. John Clark, B. 5090; Miss Lela Marks, Miss Alma Marks, R-2172.

Cacti and Succulents — Mrs. John Clark, B. 5090.

Decorated Tables — Mrs. Arthur Shoven, J-7138; Mrs. W. L. Phillips, B. 3485.

Lathhouse Subjects — Miss Helen Converse, J-2402.

Clerking—Mrs. Elsie Case.

Secretary — Mrs. M. E. Ward, W-5022.

Gate Receipts—Frederick G. Jackson.

General Chairman — Mrs. M. A. Greer, W-2267.

## SHOW RULES

1. ALL EXHIBITS MUST BE IN PLACE AND PROPERLY ENTERED BY 11 A.M. OF FIRST DAY OF THE SHOW AWARDS MADE BEFORE OPENING. NO EXHIBITOR WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE PRESENT WHILE JUDGING IS GOING ON.
2. All entries must be in the hands of the Clerks by 10:30 A.M. of the first day of Show, Clerks will be on duty at 7:30 A.M. and entires will be received at any time between these hours.
3. All exhibits must be labeled with the correct names of the plants on white cards 2x3 inches, which will be furnished without charge. Name of owner should appear on bottom of container. Names of exhibitors in competitive classes positively must not appear on exhibits until after awards have been made. (Entries in Class 89 excepted from this rule).
4. Exhibits are, from the commencement of the Show, under the jurisdiction of the Show Officials and no exhibit shall be removed before the close of the Show without the authority of the official in charge.
5. Entries will not be considered by the judges unless meritorious.
6. Exhibits can be entered in one class only.

7. The committee on awards is authorized to give suitable award for any meritorious exhibit not included in the Classes named.
8. Vases are loaned without charge for cut flowers in the competative classes.
9. All pot plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor at least three months; all other flowers and plants must have been grown by the exhibitor, except where used for arrangement.
10. Flowers in Arrangements must be arranged by exhibitor.
11. In classes where a given number of blooms is specified any excess or deficiency of count shall constitute cause for disqualification.
12. A Display is an arrangement for quality and artistic effect.
13. A collection is a variety of meritorious kinds brought together.
14. All vases, bowls, etc. belonging to exhibitors must be called for Monday morning not later than eleven o'clock.
15. Flower arrangements to be judged according to the following points:

| | |
|---|---|
| Distinction | 20 points |
| Relation to container | 20 points |
| Color Harmony | 20 points |
| Proportion & balance | 20 points |
| Condition of Material | 20 points |
| | 100 |

16. An Amateur is one who does not engage in horticulture or gardening for profit and who is not directly or indirectly connected with one who engages in horticulture or gardening for profit.
17. No professional or amateur directly connected with a professional shall enter an amateur class.
18. The Floral Association invites exhibits, however small, if meritorious. Exhibits of single specimens of flowers or plants will be duly considered. Special reservations of space may be made by telephone with Mrs. M. A. Greer, W. 2267. Where Exhibits are to be of any considerable size it is advisable to make reservations in advance.

**NO FEE IS CHARGED FOR MAKING ENTRIES IN THIS SHOW.**

* Indicates cup or other trophy in class so indicated.

# Problems of the Soil . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

## YELLOW OLEANDERS

**Question:** Will you kindly tell me if the plant known as yellow oleander is poisonous, as are the other oleanders? I have one ready to set out but on account of the children will not plant it if it is poisonous. —S. B.

**Answer:** Although this is not a true oleander it is, nevertheless, quite poisonous, according to Professor W. T. Horne of the Citrus Experiment Station, U. of C., at Riverside. The poisonous properties of our common oleanders are quite well known, but less information has been available concerning the yellow oleander which is incorrectly so-called. The latter belongs to the same botanical family, Apocynacae, but to a different genera or group than the common oleander.

It seems a pity that such fine flowering shrubs as oleanders should be poisonous, but such is the case. Many well-authenticated cases are on record of deaths to humans and to animals resulting from chewing the foliage or twigs of these plants. Apparently the sap contains the poison principal so that one should be very careful in handling the cut stems of the flowers or twigs, particularly if there are cuts or abrasions on the hands.

## LIME

**Question:** Will you please tell me how much lime one should use when putting it on the soil? — L.E.W.

**Answer:** The amount of lime to use depends somewhat on the type of soil and the purpose for which it is to be used as well as the kind of lime available. In general it may be said that from 15 to 20 pounds of finely ground limestone, unburned, per 100 square feet can be used, or from 5 to 10 pounds of ordinary building lime, which has been burned but not air-slaked. Scatter it over the surface and spade it in well. Air-slaked lime can be used in the same amounts as ground, unburned limestone. Quick lime, or lime that has been burned and not slaked, should not be used where it will come in immediate contact with seeds or plant roots.

## PEPPER WEEVIL

**Question:** For several years I have tried to raise peppers in my garden, but they have either failed to set fruit or if they did they became wormy. Can you tell me anything about this and what I can do about it.—Mrs. L.

**Answer:** The pepper weevil is probably responsible for the trouble. This weevil attacks peppers, nightshade and eggplant and causes heavy losses, particularly to pepper growers. The adult beetles feed on the young pepper pods, or on the foliage. They also feed on nightshade berries and foliage. The larvae or worms feed on the contents of the bud or pod or in the pod wall of the pepper. Eggs are laid in the pepper buds or pods in May and June and throughout the season.

Dusting the plants with calcium arsenate every week or 10 days gives thorough control but because of the deposits of poison this leaves on the pods, the method cannot be recommended. As an alternative, the establishment of a pepper-free period during the winter and the destruction of nearby nightshade plants at the same time will insure practical freedom from weevils the following spring. The adult weevils do not hibernate and so must have food all winter. Lacking food they will, in large measure, die out. Nightshade plants nearby are a sure source of carry over and, with the old pepper plants, they must be destroyed if control is to be

obtained. Eggplant is not quite so important, but should also be discarded during the host-free period. Dut to the possibility of poisoning human beings if calcium arsenate is used, the destruction of old pepper and eggplant beds, as well as nearby nightshade plants, is now the best remedy known for keeping the weevils in check.

## March Meeting

The March meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was called to order by the President, Mrs. Greer. A letter of thanks was read from the California State Horticulture Society for the gift of complete files of California Garden.

An invitation from the fine Arts Society to members of the Floral Association to hear Mr. Dunthorne lecture on fruits and flower prints was read. Professor and Mrs. Barker of Massachusetts were introduced and Mrs. Barker gave a short talk on "Memories of a New England Garden." Mrs. Greer introduced Professor T. D. A. Cockerell of Boulder, Colorado who talked on "Flowers Around the World as I Have Seen Them in My Travels." Professor Cockerell spoke of the very charming book "Around My Garden" by Alphonse Kear and brought out how much we can see about us if we are sufficiently observant. There is so much drama connected with seeing a flower for the first time and realizing it has never been described. When Kolts looked at the orange flower of the California Poppy for the first time he knew he was seeing a new specimen. One hundred and twenty years ago Professor Long of Pikes Expedition saw the Colorado blue Columbine when climbing Pikes Peak.

In traveling it is interesting to note that plants develop characteristics which enable them to survive in that location. The Joshua Tree (Yucca brevifolia) is millions of years old. It lives in a very restricted area now, south of the Colorado desert. A plant that is a common flower in one locality is a rarity

(Continued on Page 9)

## Gleanings from the Magazines

**By IDA LOUISE BRYANT**

HOLLAND'S, The Magazine of the South, has an article called "Camellias For Your Window," in its March issue. The writer stresses the need of an acid soil—with our live oak leaf-mold here, we have no worries on that score, though many growers use aluminum suffate in addition—and emphasizes something not commonly mentioned. "Not only should camellias be kept moist at the top, but at the bottom. Even though good drainage is an essential, a layer of peat moss, kept damp, around the bottom of the pot, which is set in a larger container, is recommended." Still, we find that camellias are very shallow-rooted, and should not be cultivated; there seems to be a discrepancy here. It would seem to us that the balance between sogginess and mere dampness would be difficult to maintain; spasmodic gardeners need not apply here!

SUNSET, March, has two fine pages on seed sowing, with every step detailed and illustrated; the March Garden Guide pages, too, have an incredible amount of useful garden information.

DESERT PLANT LIFE for Jan., in Notes from Kew Gardens told us about the irreparable damage that has been done various collections by bombs. One would imagine that a target so obviously non-military as glasshouses could have been unworthy of notice by bombers. But so it has always been; the hardwon results of the tedious labors of science, the master works of genius in art and literature, though treasured and cherished through years of peace are marked for destruction when man's hatred and vindictiveness are aroused. Like the host of Sennacherib, they lie "withered and strown." The report says that steps are being taken to move herbarium species, but with the indiscriminate bombing, no place is safe.

Our readers may remember that some months ago we carried an announcement of a $1000 prize to be awarded by the Macmillan Company for the best garden book by a writer who had never had one published. Mr. Frank K. Balthis of Chicago won the award; his book, "Plants in the Home" won first place, among one hundred fifty-nine entries. He is assistant to the chief horticulturist of the Chicago Park District; serves as speaker on lecture courses for garden clubs, is associated with the Men's Garden Club, judges at flower shows, and writes for newspapers and magazines on plant topics. He is president of the Chicago Cactus Society and heads the list of Desert Plant Life editors. His book will be ready in the late spring, we are told.

Looking over the CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL for February we find a most interesting account of a vacation trip through the desert section of southwestern Texas, called, romantically, Land of Waupello, land of the sun. This is written by a Wisconsin cactus fancier, or "cactophile," as the magazine has it. Truly, cactus and succulent enthusiasts are rivalled only by old glass collectors in the fervency of their devotion.

SUBTROPICAL GARDENING, in its Dec.-Jan. issue has a stirring account of what communities have been able to do about the billboard nuisance. Apparently a word direct to the manufacturer whose product is displayed on the board is a potent form of disapproval. He may be mildly amused by an individual letter or two, but if they continue to come in, in increasing numbers, and from different localities, the advertising agency is directed to lay off billboards and use some other medium. The town of Springfield, Vermont, was able to discourage billboards in its vicinity by just such simple measures, and is now entirely free from them. O, frabjous day!

In the same magazine, an article on the succulents commonly known as "stone plants" brings to mind Professor Cockerell's delightful talk.

"Flowers Around the World" at our March meeting, in which he mentioned seeing great areas of these unique, chubby little plantlets on South African veldts, looking for all the world like smooth round stones scattered over the ground.

The latest issue of TREES, (formerly a quarterly, now bimonthly, and in a resplendent cover of silver and blue) has something of interest on fastigiate or upright forms of trees. Those of us who struggle with narrow parkings, or none at all, and crave the beauty that street trees can give our neighborhoods, should find this article, the first of a series by the city forester of Rochester, N. Y., most helpful.

GARDEN GOSSIP for January had a glowing account of a lecture given in Alexandria, Virginia, by our California horticulturist and author, Lester Rowntree. The writer speaks of her as follows: "Mrs. Rowntree is one of the real personalities of the gardening world . . . few persons derive as much pleasure from living, in the truest and deepest meanings of the word, as she does." And with that, having only her writings to judge by, we heartily agree.

GARDEN GOSSIP in its February issue has a full page of directions for preparing flowers for shows; it should be of help to aspiring beginners as it unfolds the mysteries of retarding blooms, or of speeding them up at will.

GOLDEN GARDENS for February has a timely article on our better new roses. This is one time when we sluggards (the beginning of that word has unpleasant implications) who didn't get our new things in early have profited by our slowness; so many of the freshly planted gardens were drowned by the unprecedented rains of February. Stocks, unless they were on slopes or bank edges, had a brief existence, even though they had come to flower; and all those bulbs not naturalized and therefore later blooming, were disappointing. At any rate, our reservoirs are full!

Have you a rock garden, and is it doing well? If not, perhaps it needs a scree in it. An article in the February GARDENERS' CHRONICLE will tell you how to go about making one. We're not talking now about the sun-dried or arroyo type of rock garden, consisting of a haphazard collection of rocks, with an assortment of hardy (of necessity) cacti and succulents disposed around, about and upon them; but about those we see illustrated in the eastern garden magazines, with alpines and campanulas and conifers. If you want one just like the picture, you'll have to learn about SCREES first.

## Wildflowers

(Continued from Page 3)

pupils learn some each year so that by the time they reach the Sixth Grade they are familiar with many of them.

My only regret is that more people cannot enjoy the Wildflower tours through the County with me, and that more cannot visit our Show at the school. It is a school project and can't be held elsewhere. Upon request last year however, we took a small section to the San Diego Floral Association Spring Flower Show in Balboa Park. We are proud of our First Prize Ribbon and the Wildflower Medal presented to us for the display. We hope that many of those interested will visit Grant School this Spring, to see the Eighth Annual Wildflower Show, starting on Monday afternoon, April 28th and ending on May 9th. It is open to the public during school hours, on Open House Night during Public Schools Week, and by appointment. You are cordially invited to study with us.

Mayme L. Carroll

## Rose Diseases

(Continued from Page 2)

the same reason the flowers open more slowly. Light colored varieties show the injury the most prominently.

**Control:** No practical control has been developed. Several species of thrips may be involved, but the flower thrips, Franklinella spp., is commonly found in the blooms. The flower thrips is very abundant and widely distributed, breeding in the grass lands and native growth in the spring, then moving into cultivated crops when the grasses and native plants commence to dry up. Obviously, since contact sprays or dusts are recommended for control, it may not be practical to spray often enough to stem the tide of invasion. A tartar emetic spray (2 lbs. tartar emetic, 1 lb. sugar, 100 gallons of water) is worthy of trial. Varieties little affected or at least showing the least injury should be grown. The Ophelia varieties are all seriously affected, as are Columbia varieties and many others.

**MISCELLANEOUS TROUBLES**

**Root Knot Nematode (Heterodera Marioni [Cornu]):**

Microscopic worms infesting the roots of rose plants, causing round irregular swellings or the knots on tender roots. While infestations on roses do not cause the death of rose plants growing under good cultural practices outdoors, the general vigor of the plants is impaired. The greatest danger is in the spread of the pest to plants more seriously affected, which is practically impossible to prevent unless infested plants are immediately destroyed and the soil in which they are growing disinfected. Carbon-bisulfide, 1 oz. to every square foot of infected area at a depth of 8 to 12 inches will effectively destroy the nemas if done thoroughly and care is taken to disinfect tools that have been in contact with infested soil with boiling water. Calcium cyanide raked in the surface of the area will serve to make doubly sure that all the nemas are destroyed. Damp burlap bags placed over the infested area immediately after the material is placed in the soil will further insure effective control. The area may be replanted in ten days or two weeks. Caution should be exercised that gas of either of these materials does not come in contact with the roots of plants. Do not use closer than 3 ft. from the roots of living plants, further is desir-

able.

**Die-Back (Non-Parasitic):**

(Some discussion is pertient here as to the relationship of some of the canker diseases, particularly Brown Canker [Cryptosporella umbrina Jenkins] and Stem Canker [Coniothyrium fuckellii Sacc.] to this die-back trouble. Professor L. W. Massey of Cornell University reports finding brown canker associated with the well known die-back of the variety Golden Emblem. While stem canker is reported by the same authority to occur in a great many instances of die-back following the practice of leaving long stubs above the nodes when pruning. The consequent decay of these long pruning stubs affording a ready entrance for the canker disease organisms. The question in the average rose growers' minds is, naturally, are these canker diseases primarily parasitic or are they secondary following die-back caused by incorrect pruning or an inherited variety weakness? The practical answer seems to be that, regardless of how they gain entrance to healthy plant tissue, they are capable of causing a complete die-back of plant canes once they gain entrance and to extend what might otherwise be slight die-back difficulties to the complete loss of the canes. The best control would appear to be care in pruning that the cuts are made just above the nodes.)

A trouble that may be confused with alkali induced die-back commonly occurs on the pernetiana (Rosa foetida hybrids) roses. Vigorous canes of plants of this type suddenly turn yellow, then brown, and die-back for several inches, or, in some cases, to the base of the cane. This trouble may be easily distinguished from others by the fact that only certain varieties of the pernetiana type are affected. There is one notable exception to this and that is the variety Dame Edith Helen, which, although it shows more of the rosa damascena characteristics (including the shape of bud, color and fragrance of that species), may, of course, have some Rosa foetida in its parentage. Some of the varieties badly affected by this trouble are Golden Emblem, Lady Inchiquin, Mad. Ed. Herriot, Souv. Claudius Pernat, Souv. Georges Pernet, Angele Pernet, Mari Dot and many others. It is apparently an inherent weakness of one of the parent species of this type, Rosa foetida. Rosa foetida is native to the arid regions of Western Asia. Under our growing conditions it shows the same difficulty here as its offspring. It makes a very rapid growth when rainfall is abundant, the long canes, however, are very pithy and die-back at the tips after this growth matures. This tendency to die-back of mature wood is probably correlated to the pithiness of the canes. The important point in connection with successfully growing these Foetida hybrids here lies in their pruning. Heavy pruning accentuates the die-back, even shortening the canes, as practical with other roses, often induces die-back. Thinning out the old canes at their base is the correct procedure, beyond this only the seed pods and dead wood should be removed. If these roses are pruned, painting the wounds with tree seal or carbolineum tree paint may check the die-back tendency to some extent.

**Rose Stunt:**

Plants do not grow with vigor normal to the variety. No appearance of die-back or leaf trouble. New shoots are weak, spindly and plants bloom infrequently. There are two general causes of this difficulty. One cause is the use by the propagator of weak, undeveloped buds or scions which subsequently develop runts or stunted plants in the growing nursery. Such plants seldom develop into satisfactory garden plants. Nursery plants need not be large necessarily, but it is well to select plants that have tops which are well developed in proportion to the root system. Small spindly growths on large roots often indicate weak buds or scions. Normally one year's growth in the growing nursery from dormant buds will develop a good top of at least two strong shoots varying in size according to the variety. In the past the trouble has most often occurred with new varieties. The propagator often using every available bud, including immature buds from stock plants of new and expensive varieties.

The second cause is too deep planting. Weaker varieties planted in heavy soil are most commonly affected, although vigorous varieties are sometimes seriously affected. Upon lifting such plants it will be seen that the main root system is dead or dying and that small roots have developed nearer the ground level, sometimes above the bud union, from the scion. No rose should be planted deeper than the level at which it was grown in the nursery field. Obviously the purpose of budding roses on strong understocks is defeated, if the scion is forced to develop feeding roots above the strong understock. Even roses on their own roots are often seriously effected by too deep planting. This is one of the most common causes of failures in the rose garden.

## March Meeting

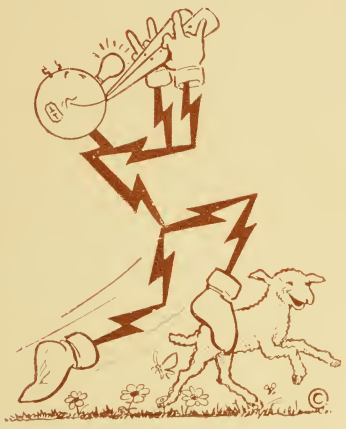
(Continued from Page 7)

in another. When Professor Cockerell first went to Jamaica he was asked to be a judge at a flower show. Much to his surprise a sickly specimen of Iris received first prize whereas a gorgeous flower which was endemic received little or no comment. He believes we should concentrate on plants that will do well in our climate rather than attempt to raise difficult specimens from another location.

In 1923 Professor Cockerell was asked to identify several Fossil insects which came from Siberia. Mrs. Cockerell suggested they go to Siberia and study. They found Siberia delightful in summer.

Man has been the means of saving a few plants that otherwise would have become extinct. The Ginko tree is a good example for it is not found wild but is grown around Japanese temples.

# Enjoy Your Garden More



WELL-planned GARDEN LIGHTING lends much to any yard and is an added attraction when entertaining in the evening. The operating cost is almost infintesimal compared to the fuller measure of enjoyment possible with well-planned garden lighting. We are glad to give practical suggestions for your garden lights.

**SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY**

**ALBRIGHTS'**
9th Ave. at "G" Franklin 5822

Walter Kendall COMPLETE RATION
DOG FOOD

**Garden Hardware**

DWIN KILLS INSECTS
In House and Garden

LARGE ASSORTMENT OF
BEDDING PLANTS

Gaviota FERTILIZER and TAPS

Fresnol will exterminate Ants
Fresnol is sold with an absolute money-back guarantee.

Dahlia Tubers . . . . . each 25c

VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP

**Sabol Service**
*We Supply Your*
GARDEN REQUIREMENTS

FERTILIZERS
Steer or Cow Manure

LEAF MOULD
Sack or Truck Load

TOP SOIL
Mountain or Mesa

*Ornamental Rock—Flagstone*

**University at Bancroft**
Phone Jackson 4211